1945

Evolution of Agriculture in Mississippi

EVOLUTION OF AGRICULTURE IN MISSISSIPPI

A Group of Addresses and a Letter Delivered on the Occasion of the Placing of Portraits of
COL. W. B. MONTGOMERY
and
J. E. EVANS
in the
MISSISSIPPI HALL OF FAME

Addresses by

PROF. L. A. HIGGINS,
PROF. J. S. MOORE,
H. F. WILLIAMS,
O. E. VAN CLEAVE,
A. H. STONE

and letter by

W. A. EVANS

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Mr. L. A. Higgins, Extension Dairy Husbandman and Sect.-Treas., Mississippi Jersey Cattle Club, State College, acted as Chairman of the annual meeting, the purpose of which was to present the portraits of Col. Montgomery and Mr. Evans, two State benefactors, to the State Department of Archives and History to be placed in the Hall of Fame.

These men are the first to be honored for their contribution to Agriculture, and this is the first time in the history of Mississippi's 121 years of statehood that a definite tribute has been paid to farm leaders.

Mr. E. H. White, Director of Extension, State College, delivered the keynote speech, expressing appreciation for the honor bestowed upon the Mississippi State College, through the Extension Service, for the privilege of addressing such a distinguished group assembled on this history-making occasion to pay tribute to two distinguished agricultural leaders of ours, the most agricultural state in the Union.

Mr. White spoke of Col. Montgomery's vision and courage as a pioneer in dairy development, which has contributed so materially to the farm income of the State, to the health of the people, and to the building and conservation of the soil. He told of his personal acquaintance and intimate contact with Mr. Evans over a period of years, of his knowledge of Mr. Evans strong determination and constructive efforts to overcome the serious problems of the reconstruction period which confronted him when he came into active life and responsibility on the farm of his parents in Monroe County afetr the devastating days of the Civil War. In speaking of these two men Mr. White said that Mr. Evans' leadership, which came after Col. Montgomery's retirement, was the direct result of his followship of the splendid example of Col. Montgomery, which was an everlasting inspiration to him.

A REVOLUTION IN AGRICULTURE IN MISSISSIPPI THE PART THAT THE DAIRY COW PLAYED AND IS PLAYING IN THIS REVOLUTION

By Prof. J. S. Moore, a Mississippi Dairy Farmer, State College, Miss.

The value of the Jersey cow as a producer of a necessary human food for home use was early recognized by the

farmers of our State but very few were able to look into the future and see what she could and would mean as a factor in our development of a well balanced system of farming.

We inaugurate today a very worth while movement as we meet to pay tribute to two men who early appreciated the possibilities offered through the development of the dairy industry for which our State is so eminently fitted. Both of these men I am proud to claim were my warm personal friends and to acknowledge that I owe much to them. About 75 years ago the older of these two men, W. B. Montgomery, then a young Princeton graduate, came back to Oktibbeha County with a vision. He found the farm lands eroded, of unusually low fertility, and the yield of cotton—the only cash crop grown at the time—exceedingly small. He saw the farms as they were and pictured in his mind what they could become. He was a man of action. He became owner of large tracts of these lands and advised his neighbors to quit fighting grass and instead, use it, to get Jersey cows that would convert it into golden streams of milk which in turn would put more gold into their pockets and in the banks than the system or lack of system that they were following. He planted many varieties of clover, legumes, and grasses. He bought high priced registered Jersey cows and placed them on these farms. He urged the farmers to visit the farm, see how nature intended these lands to be used, observe the luxuriant growth and the great varieties of crops that could be grown and then watch the graceful little Jersey as she went out and gathered these crops, then how the finest of all feeds for the dairy cow was converted into milk and the cow returned to the barn to turn over the profits in the form of a human food for which there is no substitute. Only an occasional farmer was at that time induced to consider seriously the advice given by this pioneer. Among his disciples however was my friend and coworker Jim Evans. They blazed the way. Believing the old adage: no cows, no manure; no manure, no fertility; no fertility, no crops, they recognized the value of the Jersey cow not only as a producer of the best, cheapest, and absolutely necessary human food, but also as a means by which the fertility of the soil, the basis of all successful agriculture, could be maintained and increased.

What part then has the dairy cow played in the revo-

lution, or perhaps a better term evolution in agriculture? From a commercial viewpoint, we may begin with the year 1912. Prior to this time the average dairyman was handicapped because of lack of marketing facilities. Beginning with the establishment of the first successful creamery which was started in 1912, our next speaker will no doubt indicate that at present practically every farmer in the State can find a ready market for his product through a butter, cheese, ice cream or condensery plant. From the above date the dairy industry has steadily grown in importance as a factor in the change that has been taking place in our agricultural program.

Mississippi is essentially an agricultural state. Her wealth is in her soil and its ability to produce farm crops. The dairy cow on many farms has solved the problem of the profitable utilization of much of the land that in the past has been idle, returning no profit to the owner. Such lands have been planted in grass and clovers and in numerous cases the net returns per acre have exceeded the profits from the best acres in cultivation.

Results by the Mississippi Experiment Station and experience of individual dairymen confirm this statement. The Experiment Station shows that the profitable utiilzation of land may be increased 43 per cent without increased cost of operation and that the net profits exceed those on like areas in cultivated crops. In addition, the pasture lands were improved in fertility. With the introduction of the dairy cow, instead of having a market for one crop only, the farmer can profitably disperse of a number of crops that may be grown. One of the difficulties in the past has been that when a crop other than cotton was raised although the yield was satisfactory, there was no market for it. Good cows furnish a market for feeds grown on the farm such as hay, silage, corn, oats, etc. These feeds are sold to the cow at a price that gives a reasonable profit. She converts them into milk, that indispensable food for man, and the most stable in price of all farm products. After making this possible, she returns to him in the solid and liquid manure a large part of the original value of the crop. She thus makes possible and profitable a diversification of crops, and therefore a better distribution of labor.

Cotton culture favors soil erosion and the results of past methods of farming are all too evident in eroded soils, fertility gone and unprofitable returns. The Experiment

Station shows that when we add the dary cow to our program it has been possible in a few years to more than double the yields of cotton and corn per acre. With her aid we are again bringing back the fertility of our land and making farming both profitable and pleasant. Results show that this combination of cotton and the dairy cow, through the use of more land, the better distribution of labor, the increased marketing facilities, the improvement of soil fertility, enables the farmer to more than double his income and to treble his profits.

As breeders and as producers of an essential human food, we are proud to be engaged in this, the greatest single industry in the United States. There are about 25 million dairy cows in this country valued at $136,125,000. The gross income from the farms in 1930 from all sources was $9,347,000,000. Of this the dairy cow furnished $2,171,000,000, or out of each $100 gross income from the farm the distribution is as follows: Dairying 23.3%, hogs 14.8%, poultry 11.0%, vegetables 10.3%, other livestock 8.5%, all grain 8.1%, cotton 8.0%, all others 16.00%.

In Mississippi improvements are rapidly taking place. The census figures are interesting and show to some extent the progress made. In 1926 there were 340,000 dairy cows and heifers over two years of age. In 1935 this number had increased to 567,000 or 67%. From 1925 to 1935 these cows had increased in milk production from 1500 to 2500 lbs. per cow per year, or again an incerase of 67%. Are there any visable beneficial results that may be attributed to this rather phenominal growth in our dairy cow population? We have only to visit those sections of our state where dairying has already become an important factor in the farm operations, see the changes on the farms, in the community and home life of the people, the appearance of the home, its environments—then visit the business centers of such communities and compare the conditions as they are now with those prevailing before the development of this industry, or compare such sections with those where the farmers have failed to take advantage of the possibilities offered through the merits of the dairy cow and we will find the answer. What the dairy cow has done for Mississippi is only the beginning of the things that she can accomplish.

Just as these to whom we pay tribute today saw the need of a dairy industry they visualized no less clearly the

importance of trained farmers—farmers who could appreciate the opportunities all about them. They recognized that the system of education was not such as to offer this training and that the great majority of the people were limited by the crude conditions of their environment and by their lack of information. Lack of vision, prejudice and superstition often confronted any new discovery and any untried system of service. These pioneers therefore hailed with enthusiasm the establishment of the land grant colleges which were established for the purpose of providing a liberal and practical education for the industrial classes, including farmers, mechanics, merchants, bankers, technicians, scientists, home makers, and engineers. No longer was education to be confined to the sons and daughters of the wealthy and the privileged few, but thru the Morrill act of 1860 the opportunity was given for all to receive that education that would best fit them to become useful citizens and to enjoy that fuller life. W. B. Montgomery who did so much for the Jersey breed was also an enthusiastic promoter of State College. He was largely responsible for its establishment as A. & M. College at Starkville and was untiring in his duties as a member of its first board of trustees, of which he remained a member until old age made it necessary for him to retire.

Shortly after the College was established, as the local trustee of the board, he selected the site for dairy barns and lots. When criticized by some who called attention to the fact that the barns would be located on the main highway directly in front of the other College builidngs, he replied, "That is only fitting and proper. We are establishing a college to eradicate from the State ignorance and superstition and make it possible for our young people to appreciate the beauty of nature, to study and solve nature's secrets, and for such a life they will need larger incomes and nothing offers greater possibilities for such increased returns and nothing will provide more pleasurable occupation than will the Jersy Cow. She belongs in the front yard—and in the front yard she went.

In keeping with the spirit of these pioneers, the progress of dairying, as in other industries, has been based on science and the College has played an important part in this development. The farmer or dairyman of today needs an education more perhaps than at any previous period.

much of the land has been depleted of its soil fertility. The farmer of today must fight against more destructive insects and animal and plant diseases. He faces new problems in management and marketing. Rural conditions have changed radically. The prepared farmer will find in all these things a challenge to the very best ability and the finest courage. Experience and science must both come to his aid. To this native ability must be added a liberal education. To the farmer who is thus prepared to begin his career the country offers many delights and rewards that are great because he has prepared himself to enjoy them.

The establishment of the colleges was followed in 1887 by the Hatch act eestablishing the agricultural experiment station which pacved the way for a real science in agriculture. This in turn by the establishment of the extension department. These three departments—the College teaching force for giving instruction to students, the College Experiment Station to conduct research and investigations, and the Extension force to carry the findings of the Station to the people of the State—all of these under one head have extended the campus of our land grant college to every nook and corner of the State. With all of these agencies imbued with an honest desire to serve and with a vision of the possibilities that lie before us to make life more pleasant, and more abundant, cooperating with all other agencies engaged in a like service; such as, the agricultural papers and magazines, the press, the various governmental agencies, to name only a few, we look with confidence to the future. When we think of what the dairy cow, the foster mother of mankind, has done in reclaiming waste lands, in increasing soil fertility, in making possible a long time profitable farm program, and then realize that we have only seen the beginning of what this industry can do for the people of the State, we are inclined to exclaim with Governor Patterson of Tennessee as follows:, without quoting his exact words: "If I had the genius of a Homer who sang of wars and heroes, of Virgil who sang of men and arms, of Horace of love and wine, of Dante with his description of the Infernal regions, and Milton with his Paradise, if I had the genius of all of these combined, I would sing with all my heart and soul of the cow, proclaiming her virtues and perpetuating her name to the remotest generations. If I were a Michaelangelo, I would search the quarries for a pure white stone and when it was found

would settle in some secluded spot in Mississippi where the skies are bluest and the birds sing sweetest and the grasses are greenest and there I would begin a work of love and duty. Out of this white marble I would carve a cow—patient, kindly, intelligent, willing to give to those in need that life-giving fluid that provides health and strength to all. Beneath this cow I would write in large letters the word—Service—Service to humanity—Service to the poor as joyfully as to the rich—service to the child, the middle aged, the old. Her concern is to help humanity. We, no doubt, could get along without railroads, without autos, radios, or without King Cotton, but without Queen Cow the men would sicken and die, and the human race would disappear from the face of the earth."

Again to my monument I would go and would make a base on which this spirit of my dreams would stand and around this rim I would carve the figures of dear little babies—their hands and expectant eyes raised toward their best friend in all the animal world, the friend that never fails them, the one that puts the firm pink flesh upon their tender frames, the one that brings dimples and smiles like the touch of angels wings, when the sweet life-giving milk trickles in a velvet sugary stream down their throats until the bottle falls away and sleep comes to caress and hold them still in its protecting arms.

"THE PART THE DAIRY PRODUCTS PROCESSING PLANTS HAVE PLAYED IN BRINGING ABOUT THIS REVOLUTION."

By H. F. McWilliams, Sec.-Treas., Mississippi Dairy Products Association, Hattiesburg, Miss.

As a Son of Mississippi my heart swells with pride and joy on this historic occasion, when we meet to honor two great Mississippians who were pioneer leaders in a great Agricultural, Economic and Social Revolution and about which I am to tell you some of the "Part That Dairy Products Processing Plants Have Played in Forwarding This Revolution."

Lets go back to their time so that we in this Machine Age, with diversified processing plants and markets might more properly appreciate their courage, vision and constructive aciton, which was to be the foundation of a great and lasting industry; the liberating movement in agricul-

ture and economics in Mississippi. We see our State at that time in a slow recovery from a devastating war that had left wreck and ruin in our whole Agricultural economic and social order. This condition forced our people, as a whole, to tie their entire existence to the culture of COTTON. Little else was sold from the farm in their day—for there were no markets or processing plants other than for COTTON. Nevertheless there was one who would not be denied porgress and achievement; one with prophetic vision of a better day and the courage to put it in action; one who resolved to break the shackles and tyranny of the one crop—COTTON—system and we see Col. W. B. Montgomery, whom we honor today, importing pure bred Jerseys from the Isle of Jersey and establishing proof positive that this great Dairy Breed was not only an economic possibility for Mississippi, but that they thrived here (except for the destructive Texas cattle fever tick, which later was controlled.) Then that other great leader whom we honor today, the late J. E. Evans, proved by his scientific experiments in breeding and testing that Mississippi bred Dairy Cattle would not only produce as much, as economically, as dairy cattle anywhere, but also win the blue ribbons in the show rings of the world.

These facts, contributed and proven by these Great Mississippians, constitute the back-ground of the present great dairy development in our midst. By co-incidence, as far as this occasion is concerned, the first Dairy Products Processing Plant your speaker was ever in, was at the age of 7, when his parents lived for about a year at Moon Valley, Miss. This was probably the first Commercial Dairy Producst Processing Plant in Mississippi. It was being operated on the Dairy Farm of Col. W. B. Montgomery. This was the period of pan setting and skimming of the fat off the milk and the hand operated "dasher" and "barrel" churn, the now familiar cream separator was not in use. The butter was hand molded into round hand decorated packages or tubbed. When it could be marketed it brought from ten to twenty cents per pound, depending upon whether "times" were "good" or "times" were "bad."

From this date in the nineties, the farm dairy and the family cow experienced slow development, consisting mostly of the spread over North East Mississippi of the fine producing blood of those earlier Jersey importations, until we reach the era marked by the progressive work in dairy-

ing of the Dairy Department of the A. & M. College, (now Miss. State College.)

Along in the first decade of this century COTTON had continued to be King. He had held his subjects in strict submission, but now his throne was being threatened by the Mexican Cotton-Boll Weevil. This situation enabled the forces of constructive progress instituted by those we honor today, to break through King "Cotton's" embattled armaments and receive recognition for the "Dairy Queens" of Col. Montgomery and Mr. Evans, and in 1912, the worst year of the weevil infestation and destruction, the first successful Creamery was established at A. & M. College and again, as if by prophetic vision, we see a new agricultural, economic and social Sun, rising to light the way in a gloomy and cheerless prospect.

The first Processing Plant in 1912 churned 17,100 pounds of butter and paid the farmers $5,130.00. This first Creamery was and is today a cooperative creamery and from that small beginning has developed into one of the largest producers of high quality butter in the South and probably now churns more than a million pounds annually and pays farmers over a quarter million dollars and continues to grow and expand and prosper, in the presence of strong competition. Here, at last, was a year-round CASH market for a Mississippi farm product. Building upon this foundation in the period since 1912, Creameries were orgainzed throughout the state and in 1917 we see eighteen Creameries established with an output of nearly three million pounds of butter. During the succeeding years the number of creameries has remained almost constant, though the production of butter increased to 8,219,-566 pounds in 1927. The Creamery was the forerunner of the further development of the dairy industry in Mississippi and around it and the cream buying stations established in more remote places, was developed the increasing volume of milk production which permitted the successful operation of other and competing milk processing plants.

The organization of this Mississippi Creameryman's Association in 1915 and the constructive contribution it made in securing the enactment of laws for the protection of the producer, consumer and the manufacturer as well as in marketing and quality improvement campaigns, made this organization now the Mississippi Dairy Products Association, an invaluable ally and aid through the trying

days and years of development. This Association, now a consolidation of all the Dairy Porducts Processing Plants in the state, continues to render yeoman service to the Industry and the public and is just now engaged in a QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN, designed to make Mississippi Dairy Products equal to the best anywhere.

The firts vacuum pan milk condensing equipment was installed at Hattiesburg, in 1919 to condense by-products and the first condensed milk made in the COTTON STATES was made there. However, the first large commercial milk Condensery was established in 1926 following a long and successful struggle to overcome misinformation and lack of understonding. It was said that Southern farmers could grow COTTON and nothing else; that not enough milk could be secured to successfully operate a condensery; that Jersey milk, with its high butterfat content, could not be successfully condensed or evaporated into a standard product. This first condensary was located in Mississippi only after the farmers of one county assembled and shipped, under ice, a carload of milk to one of the parent condensing plants where it underwent the usual process of manufacture and successfully met every test. Then followed, soon after, the establishment of the first Condensery south of the Mason and Dixon Line, at Starkville, Miss., the home of the first successful Creamery. Its sponsors hoped to develop a sufficient volume of milk to permit profitable operation in from one to two years and to the astonishment of all, the full capacity was reached within thirty days after opening for business. Since its establishment, the capacity of this plant has been increased two or three times in order to take care of the great volume of milk offered. Condenseries utilize large quantities of milk, fifty thousand pounds per day being minimum requirements for successful operation. The four large Condenseries now operating in Mississippi were eagerly sought after by business and agricultural leaders and many promises and guarantees were made as to the quantity of milk that could be, and would be, produced if our farmers were given the opportunity of patronizing a condensery market. Needless to state all have long since exceeded the guaranteed quota, and this branch of Dairy Products Processing is now firmly established in our midst. The years 1926 and 1927 attain second place in significance to that of 1912 in the development of dairy products pro-

cessing plants in Mississippi as in the year 1926 the first cheese plants were established also. This gave us both condenseries and cheese plants in those years and there is probably no more striking example of dairy progress on record than that occuring in Mississippi in the years 1926-1927 and 1928. In 1927, 195,534 pounds of cheese were manufactured. In 1928 the production had risen to 2,-530,915 pounds and the plants to fourteen, including the foremost cheese operators in America. For a long time cheese manufacturers entertained grave doubts as to the practicability of using Jersey Milk, with its high fat content, in the manufacture of cheese. They labored, too, under the delusion that our summers are too hot in Mississippi, thus making more difficult the manufacture of quality cheese. Both of these theories have been definitely proven incorrect and now as fine cheese as can be made anywhere is manufactured in Mississippi and the future of this branch of Dairy Products Processing in our midst is not only promising, but assured.

A transformation as striking as that witnessed in other branches of the Dairy Products Processing and Manufacturing Industry in Mississippi has been experienced in the manufacture of Ice Cream. This branch of the industry spread into our state from Memphis, Birmingham and New Orleans and as early as 1915 plants were springing up in the larger cities of our state, product for its manufacture, in many instances being shipped in from as far away as Illinois. Production has grown from a few thousand gallons in 1915 to over 1,500,000 gallons by 1928 by 53 modern plants, all of which are now supplied with Mississippi milk and cream. Ice Cream manufactured in Mississippi is produced under laboratory control and conforms to the highest standards of sanitary excellence, at the same time carrying the maximum in food value. The butterfat standard for Ice Cream in our state is 10%, thus providing a wholesome food of richness and vitamins.

A growing knowledge of the HEALTH PROTECTIVE FOOD VALUE of wholesome sweet milk is causing a greater consumption, per capita, in our cities and towns, and the Fresh Market Milk Industry is growing rapidly and promises to become an additional large outlet for the profitable marketing of high grade dairy products.

The Dairy Industry in Mississippi is yet young, however, its swaddling clothes have been cast aside, but de-

velopments during recent years can be regarded as nothing more than an indication of the still greater developments that are to come. The many advantages enjoyed by our state in health features, luxurant pastures, fertile soil, long grazing season, more sunshine in winter when we need it, less in summer when we do not need it, present abundant opportunities for the economical production of milk. That these opportunities are being seized and realized upon is evident from a study of the results already achieved. Once it was difficult to arouse interest in dairying among people whose interest was in COTTON. That time has passed. Once it was difficult to build a Dairy Industry because substantial markets and processing plants were lacking. That time has likewise passed as now the whole state has access to both.

May we present now, a resume' of the different dairy products manufactured and processed by Mississippi's 227 plants in 1937, and their total money value.

Creamery Butter _____	6,277,254 pounds
Cond. & Evap. Milk_____	40,686,772 pounds
Cheese _____	9,316,633 pounds
Ice Cream _____	1,462,922 Gallons
Dry Milk _____	39,500,000 pounds__
Market Milk (for bottling in Mississippi and shipped to nearby cities in other states_____	90,000,000 pounds

Total value in money of the Dairy Industry in Mississippi, Exclusive of farm home use, in 1937 was over $25,000,000.

And now, in closing, could we not assume that the Great Mississippians we honor here today had in mind for the people of their state the fact that milk is the most important food; that its production would employ on a year around cash basis, thousands of Mississippi Farmers: That its manufacturer. Processing and distribution would employ other thousands and thus constitute one of the biggest industrial enterprises of the State—moreover we believe they had in mind, also the truths so ably expressed by Dr. E. V. McCullum, eminent Biochemist, of Johns Hopkins University when he said: "The people who have achieved, who have become large, strong, vigorous people, who have reduced their infant mortality, who have the best trades in the world, who have an appreciation for art, literature, and music, who are progressive in science and in every ac-

tivity of the human intellect, are the people who have used liberal amounts of milk and its products."

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAITS TO MISSISSIPPI HALL OF FAME

By Mr. O. E. VanCleave, a Jersey Breeder, Chapel Hill, Tennessee.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen: In perfecting the plans of those in charge of this program to render today befitting public recognition to two great and distinguished sons of Mississippi's soil, there has been conferred on me an unusual and distinctive honor in having me make this presentation of the portraits of these two remarkable men to your Hall of Fame. I am indeed grateful for this high honor and for this rare privileged hour.

Although I have been denied the privilege of standing before you as a native son of your wonderful and enchanting state, I once had the very happy experience of calling Mississippi my home for seven delightful years during which time I learned to love her people, her traditions, and her ideals. Later on it became my pleasant experience as well as my professional duty to contribute some degree of service toward advancing the interest of your progressive state. Unconsciously I contrast conditions in your state today with what I knew them to be when I first made Mississippi my home in 1912, only to realize that a quarter of a century has moved the economic factors of your social and financial structure to a broader and more enduring foundation. Just as a New South rose from the ashes of the Civil War, another New South is now emerging in the second quarter of this century, I should like to felicitate you on such remarkable development.

But were it not for these reasons and were I an entire stranger to you on this occasion, my interest in your splendid state would still be intensely personal for the oldest brother of my sainted mother sleeps amidst the heroes who gave their all in the gallant but hopeless defense of Vicksburg in 1863. To my family Mississippi has been and will ever be sacred soil and treasured in our hallowed memories.

It is also true that I come from a state the name of whose most famous sons adorns this your beautiful capitol city—the first man in America to rise from humble rural

backwoods environments with their attendant poverty, hardships and meager educational opportunities to the highest distinction ever accorded to any American citizen and who for more than a century has been the inspiration of millions of country boys in believing that the world recognizes a man for what he is and what he does rather than for ihs social and financial background, or the prestige of his family.

Hence to me it is most fitting that here in a city named for Andrew Jackson, the first and greatest rural product America ever produced, the committee charged with the responsibility of naming from Mississippi's long list of famous sons—sons who have molded not merely the destiny of the people of this state but the nation itself, sons who have struggled not in vain to advance the social, economic and political life of this state, statesmen, lawyers, doctors, teachers and others who have traveled down the professional walks of life—should now admit to your State Hall of Immortality two sons who spent more than three score years and ten in the most ancient, honorable and necessary occupation of man, Agriculture. While less spectacular than the professions and affordig less opportunity for attracting public attention, Agriculture has ever been the foundation of life and happiness, peace and prosperity since the days of Adam and Eve, and it is inconceivable that the time will ever come when the progressive races of man will lose their intimate contact with the soil. To me, this occasion of paying tribute to these two great sons of the soil is also a favorable opportunity for us to acknowledge the dependency of society on an occupation that is basically fundamental in national success and national independence. Where Agriculture hastens to decay, cities crumble and fall, and man ceases to have dominion.

In America the soil has meant more than food and raiment to our people for there is something in our soil that grows a soul in a man, molds a sturdiness of character, a definiteness of purpose, and courage of conviciton that lift our people to the highest realms of intelligence and manhood. It has also grown ideals and ambitions in our country boys for three hundred years during which time they have crossed mountains, spanned chasms, and almost annihilated time and space. These sons of the soil have built America into what she is today, the dominant nation of the world in every field of human endeavor, the sole triumph-

ant democracy to cast its shadow across the isms of today, unmoved and unafraid. So we do ourselves honor in honoring the memory of these two men who dedicated their livse to the soil of Mississippi.

In the face of certain historical facts in connection with the United States in its progress from the very first settlement down to its present day greatness, those who are of the soil should hold ever in mind that every crucial epoch in our national life has been dominated by a man who was born and who lived so close to the soil that he was earthly and knew the soil in all of her moods in every season. Strange as it may seem, five sons of the soil have had most to do with the shaping of the destiny of this nation, and in their achievements may be written briefly the history of America. And what glorious history did these five sons of the soil write!

The Declaration of Independence, the finest document ever written by the hand of man, was the product of one of these five, Thomas Jefferson, a man who in the writing of his own epitaph made no mention of the posiitons he had held, but under his name wrote "The Author of the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Status of Liberty, and the Father of the University of Virginia." Who doesn't know the name of his farm home?

George Washington, who led the colonial armies to victory and independence, hurried from two terms as the first President of the United States back to his beloved Mount Vernon to carry on the farm duties he had so long neglected. Undoubtedly he was America's first Master Farmer, and yet he is the only man called "First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen." His precedent of two terms only as president has never been broken.

Andrew Jackson, whom I have already mentioned, with a wonderful farm in Tennessee as an enduring monument to his memory and as a mecca for thousands annually today, was the first to champion the rights of the common people, the first to raise his voice in proclaiming that the sovereignty of the nation rested in the hands of the people. His toughness of conviction is indicated by his title of "Old Hickory" and it stands for something worth while in American life.

And it was Abraham Lincoln, the product of a twenty-foot square log cabin in Kentucky and educated by the

light of a pine knot, who was the champion of individual freedom.

And today it is Franklin D. Rooesvelt who champions the rights of the common people to the consideration of the government, who inaugurated soil conservation as a national policy, and who proclaims that all classes have the same rights to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

And so may we not today, in turning back the pages of time and in this hour of recognizing and enumerating the basic factors of man's life by which we may measure his contributions toward the advancement of society's welfare whether it be in his home, his community, his state, or his nation, take cognizance of the fact that the earth is man's richest heritage and what he does with that heritage measures his status of achievement and stamps him as a benefactor or a despoiler to future generations. Rightly used the earth has produced its products and its people and these people have stood and will continue to stand among the noblest of God's creatures guiding and directing nations into ever advancing eras of enlightment and progress. Such events as this one bring home to us the realization that these two great Mississippians were unlike most of their contemporaries in their attitude toward life, and its responsibilities, and for that reason they enter this Hall of Fame.

Only very recently America has come to the realization of what these two men anticipated many long years ago—that America would now have no virgin soil for rooting and growing her ever increasing population, no new worlds to conquer, no new avenues for naitonal expansion. And the same is true of the whole world—every nation is facing the same problem. When this fact suddenly dawned on us we were startled with the discovery that we had taken no thought of the trend of our existence. In Washington, in every state, and in every county of our nation we find today serious minded and thoughtful men trying to bring about a solution to this problem of a constantly depleting soil with no new areas to which we may transplant our people. The problem has been with us for years, but we didn't see it in our rush to industrialize and mechanize the world. We had shifted our sense of values from people to things—material things by which we could measure our industrial progress and financial prosperity. We were scrambling for skyscrapers, acres of factories in

which men possessed numbers but not means to designate them. Our thoughts had wandered far from the basic purpose of the soil; it had merely become a place on which to build homes and cities and to run automobiles. Only city dwellers wanted to own a farm and that only as a base of operating a business in the city. The country folks all wanted to go to town and forsake the farms.

And we have just made another startling discovery —the low per capita annual cash income for those whose life has been cast in regions of a constantly depleting soil. The hue and the cry has been raised as to what may be done to increase this low cash income. And unfortunately we have more depleted soil and lower annual cash incomes in the South than in other sections of the country and that in a measure has had something to do with the South being classified recently as the Nation's Economic Problem No. 1.

And we have brought it all on ourselves. And the ostrich that sticks its head in the sand for safety is no more blind to approaching danger than we have been in our future. With a one crop system we are now reaping what we have been sowing for more than three-quarters of a century and if it wern't for the gullies we'd keep right on sowing. While most Mississippians have been oblivious to this approaching economic crisis and have stuck to a one crop system of farming with all of its devastating effects, it has not been true of all Mississippi farmers and that is why we are here today.

More than half a century ago two young men living in Oktibbeha and Monroe Counties, Mississippi, foresaw the time when the people of the South would rue the time when cotton became not merely their king but a dictator that exacted an annual payment of their riches and best soil while giving them less and less as the years went by. They foresaw that cheap labor would not always remain available, a factor necessary with a grdually decreasing annual yield and with other countries having even cheaper labor becoming the competitor of the South in the production of cotton. Even then East Mississippi was finding the fertle delta section of the state was gradually outstripping her in the profitable production of cotton. They probably anticipated other economic factors, which are now vexing us so grievously, would make it impossible for the South to depend upon cotton as its principal, and in many cases

its only, source of wealth. They thought of their children and their children's children and Mississippians in general as growing poorer and poorer and enjoying less and less the material blessings from the soil, and they began to bend their energies and talents toward building for the future. As the result of the three score and ten years of intense study, tireless effort, and remarkable vision on the part of these two great pioneers in Mississippi Agriculture, we find that they have left footprints in Mississippi soil that will endure more beneficently than the footprints of many in the sands of time. Indeed, the lives of these two make as distinctive an epoch in the economic hitsory of Mississippi as the lives of the five great Americans above mentioned did in the social and political history of America.

Certainly it is true that whenever a man runs ahead of his fellow man into the mysterious realms of the future, his associates too often during his life time, fail to appreciate the man and his contributions. Thus the herald of every new era has proclaimed to his associates not only the unnecessary but the impossible in their conception of events; and whatever he has accomplished was made doubly hard because of the lack of sympathetic understanding and proper appreciation of his ability to project himself beyond his present. Neither of these two Mississippians labored under favorable circumstances; neither had the helpful co-operation of his time in his trying to bring about a transition from the old methods and old ideas to the new; and yet neither labored just for his own or his family's benefit.

They were pioneering with ideas in Agriculture just as the leaders of the Revolutionary War were pioneering with ideas in liberty and government. And we who stand here today to make due and fitting acknowledgement for their contributions to the economic security of this state, are happy to see their portraits adorn your State Hall of Fame along by the side of those portraits of other distinguished sons of this great commonwealth—Jefferson Davis, J. Z. George, and all the others. They are not secondary in importance to those that have preceded them in public recognition but of equal importance when measured by the different yardsticks which we of necessity must use in appraising men who labor in different spheres of human endeavor. Let us say they were compeers with all that have gone to this Hall of Immortality for all together they have

made Mississippi one of the brightest constellations in the firmament of the nation. But in tribute to these two sons of the soil who have pillowed their heads upon the ample bosom of Mother Eatrh, whom they loved so well, and have fallen into life's last fitful sleep, we devine that their memory will ever be perpetuated in the hearts of the on-coming generations for having given their lives toward making Mississippi a better place to live, to labor and to die.

Of these two agricultural pioneers, Col. William Bell Montgomery was the older, being born in Fairfield, S. C., August 2, 1829. At six years old he came in a covered wagon to Oktibbeha County, Miss., and settled near Starkville. Although the father died during the early life of Col. Montgomery, the mother lived to the ripe old age of ninety-five years thus having an opportunity to do much to shape his career. She sent him to school in Tennessee as soon as he was old enough to make the trip on horseback, then to Erskine College, S. C., and then to Princeton University where he graduated in 1850 with a brilliant record. While reading law he married at twenty-three and terminated his association with Blackstone to become a member of a cotton brokerage firm at Mobile, Ala., where he lived till the Civil War. During the war he was connected with the manufacture of munitions for the Confederacy. Afetr the war he spent a few years in his old business at Mobile, and then returned to Oktibbeha County to become the owner of a plantation that eventually grew to 10,000 acres devoted mostly to the production of cotton which launched him on his career that stamped him the state's foremost farm citizen.

Having become interested in the lack of milk and butter in the Southern diet, he turned his energies toward the introduction of dairy cattle in the South, and within a few years, and under severe handicaps, became the owner of the largest herd of Registered Jerseys probably in America. Having started with purchases of Jerseys in America he turned to the importation of a foundation herd from the Island of Jersey, thus becoming the first, and I believe the only, Mississippian to import from the Island. From the best available records he was registering his cattle in the early seventies—the first man in the state to thus safeguard the purity of his blood lines. He joined The American Jersey Cattle Club in 1872, the first member from Mississippi, and later served two three-year terms as director,

being the first and the only Mississippian so honored. He was also the first Mississippian to attempt to sell his dairy products—butter at that time—outside of the state, making regular shipments to Mobile and New Orleans.

Looking at these achievements under present day conditions makes us fail to realize the almost insurmountable difficulties and unsolvable problems that faced Col. Montgomery as the pioneer Jersey breeder and dairyman in this state. The cattle tick was everywhere and there was no means then for grappling with this problem, hence annually many of his finest and best animals died of tick fever. A man of less courage would have quit in despair. It was also generally believed that dairying could not be carried on in the South below the Southern border of Kentucky and certain portions of Tennessee, and that butter, the only market outlet then for dairy products, could not be churned below that line. After Col. Montgomery proved this to be untrue, many people refused to purchase or eat this deep yellow butter, and some called it "painted butter." Modern refrigeration was unknown then, and ice was not obtainable where he lived even for storage in winter, hence he was forced to depend upon a deep cellar for storage. And yet it has been established that he produced a fine quality product.

To make his problem more complexing there were no permanent pastures in the state, and little was known about grasses and legumes. With pastures and feed being indispensible in dairying, Col. Montgomery had to assume the solution of this problem too, and thus he became the first man to pioneer in transferring a naked cotton field into a luxurant pasture in a land where grass was detested as a foe to cotton.

To add furter difficulties to his program of building a better and sounder agricultural South, his fellow Mississippians resented the introduction of the small and refined Jersey cow as inimicable to such beef cattle as existed at that time. The market for surplus cattle, and bulls especially, was naturally restricted.

With all of these and other problems piling to obstruct the realization of his dream, Col. Montgomery began with a zeal and a preserverance so characteristic of his whole life a move to have established in Mississippi an Agricultural and Mechanical College and in October, 1878, such an institution opened its doors at Starkville,

Miss., an institution now known as Miss. State College, one of the greatest institutions in America. He became one of the trustees of this institution in 1878 and remained on the board almost till his deatth in 1904, leaving an imprint on its policies and objectives recognizable even today.

He also found time to establish and edit an agricultural paper, "The Southern Live Stock Journal," which wielded a tremendous influence until it was taken over by "The Progressive Farmer."

To sum up this man's seventy-five years of useful and eventful life, we may call him thefather of the Jersey breed in this state, the founder of its great dairy industry with two of the South's largest dairy manufacturing plants standisg today in his home town of Starkville as monuments to his vision and endeavor, the introducer of many of the new grasses and legumes now filling a valuable place in the soil conservation program of the state which makes him the states first great conservationist, and the inaugurator of an educational system that is a constant tribute to this man's conception of the value of the soil in the life of a people. Furthermore, he is entitled to full credit for the resultant growth of agricultural high schools and junior colleges all over your wonderful state as the indirect result from his labors to train and educate the childreen of the soil to properly appreciate and rightly use the heritage given to them.

To these attributes of greatness, he was a scholar, a gentleman, a philanthropist, and a Christtian.

The other pioneer, Mr. James E. Evans, whom I had the pleasure of knowing for a number of years, was born near Muldon, Miss., in the Southwestern part of Monroe County, October 23, 1867, on a plantation which his family had owned since the days when the Indians left the state, on the same plantation he lived seventy-one years, being called to the Great Beyond from the same plantation home in which he was born and from a spot not more than twenty feet from whence he first opened his eyes on this world.

He had the misfortune to lose both of his parents when he was a child, and over his boyhood hovered the clouds of the Reconstruction Days after the Civil War, —days when the South was trying to rise anew from ashes of that terrible conflict that had destroped everything but the courage of an indomitable people--days when the South

was grappling with social, economic, financial and political problems such as no other people ever faced. A result of the debts of the Civil War and the Reconstruction Era with interest at usurious rates, his guardian had to sell so much of the plantation, there was not left sufficient acreage to support and educate the children, and as a result Mr. Evans was denied the unlimited educational advantages that belongto one of such brilliant mentality.

As a boy he became a man with a vision beyond his years, and in one year's management of the plantation in corn and cotton he discovered that under such a program he would never be able to win back the family heritage. And that was his boyish ambition. So he turned his program to include hogs and cattle for sale on city markets only to discover that he must have more feed and more pasture. Unable to buy more acres, he decided that he thus started a career in soil conservation and soil building that resulted eventually in his prairie lands now producing more cotton per acre thas they did with virgin soil. And never in the history of this North Mississippi Egypt have lands produced more feed and forage crops than did must force the soil to yield greater returns per acre and the lands of Mr. Evans. No more wonderful farm lands are to be found anywhere than you will find at Sunnyside Plantation, the result of a conservation diversification program under the guiding hand of a master farmer and husbandman. He realized his ambition and the original plantatios became his magnificent estate. Col. Montgomery pioneered in grasses, legumes, soil conservation and diversification; Mr. Evans took up where Col. Montgomery left off and carried the program to fruition. The one lighted the torch to blaze the way to better agriculture; the other born thirty-eight years later, became the one ot carry the torch as Col. Montgomery's successor.

Mr. Evans also became a breeder of Registered Jerseys, making his start in 1894, and in 36 years his fame as a breeder spread abroad and he was one of the first to recognize the perils of bovine tuberculosis and was the first in the state to put his herd under federal supervision. During the 36 years he maintained a herd there was never a case of tuberculosis that developed in a member of his herd. He was a student of feeds , an dfeeding, and his inventive gesius lead him to make a feed mixer that cut roughage, crush corn and oats, mixed all with hot black

molasses and then wormed it to his feed room—not only an inventor but a pioneer in feeds. Before flyspray came into use he perfected a device for his herd that blew the flies from the herd as they came into the barn.

While breeding dairy cattle and dairy problems were his keenest delight during his career, his genius carried him into many agricultural fields with remarkable success. For ten years he experimented with a program to eradicate crawfish from his prairie soil and attained such success that the U. S. Department of Agriculture published a bulletin on his work. Another problem of soil fertility lead him before manure spreaders were manufactured to construct a means of spreading manure from the back of a wagon to do this work faster, easier and more evenly. To save time in digging post holes for fencing, he developed in 1893 a device for power driving of posts from the back of a wagon. To speed up the handling of hay in the fields he became the inventor of another device that was a remarkable time and labor saver. He was also the second man in the state, and a member of his fmily was first, to build a dipping vat to eradicate the ticks. To the day of his death he yielded to no man in keenness of intellect, the grasp of an advanced idea, and a willingness to progress with the times. In fact he had so long run ahead of his times in thought and act that he went to his final rest thinking of what a wonderful future lay ahead of him.

And thus I have attempted to summarize the efforts of these two distinguished Mississippians to build a better, broader and more enduring foundation for the social, economic and financial wellbeing of this great agricultural state. The acceptance by the committee charged with passing on the merits of those whose services to Mississippi warrant their admission to your Hall of Fame, is sufficient proof that these two men are in a class to themselves as sons of the soil.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Hall of Fame Committee, I now have the exceedingly high honor to present, in the name of The Mississippi Jersey Cattle Club, the portraits of Col. Wililam Bell Montgomery and James E. Evans in commemoration of their services to the past, present, and future generations of the State of Mississippi.

Hon. A. H. Stone, Chairman of the State Tax Commission, and Member of the Board of Trustees of the Depart-

ment of Archives asd History in Mississippi, accepted the portraits of Col. Montgomery and Mr. Evans, with sincere expressions of deep appreciation for the services that they have rendered to the State of Mississippi, their communities, and the farmers of the State, as well as for their splendid personal characteristics marking them as good neighbors, good husbands and fathers, and good Christian citizens.

Although Col. Montgomery was of the generation older than Mr. Stone, he toldof his admiration of the courage and progressive spirit of this man who had many obstacles to surmount and many precedents to set in the interest of increased farm income, educational advantages for farm boys and better standards of living for farm people.

Mr. Stone spoke forcefully and affectionately of his close personal friend, Mr. Evans, a man of his own age asd generation, whom he had known in adversity and prosperity, and whom he had observed and admired as a business man, and master farmer; and in his home as an ideal husband and father; paying tribute to Mrs. Evans whom he praised for her inspiration and encouragement to her husband in all his undertakings, and of whom he said, "she is directly responsible for the accomplishments of her splendid husband."

In accepting these portraits Mr. Stone expressed the gratification of Dr. McCain, Director of the State Department of Archives and History; Dr. G. D. Humphrey, President of Mississippi State College; and Governor White upon having the portaits of these two distinguished Mississippi citizens presented to the Department of the Hall of Fame.

Honolulu,
Thanksgiving Day, 1938.

Prof. L. A. Higgins,
Dear Sir:

That I can not be present in Jackson on December 15, 1938, is a source of great disappointment to me. Having given much thought to the meeting in which you will then and there be engaged, naturally I anticipated pleasure from being present. To begin with, there was pride in the fact that one of the men you honor was my relative, the head of my clan.

In addition, I am interested in the theme you are to develop—"The Evolution of Agriculture in Mississippi." That change has meant much to the people and further change in the same general direction in the future promises even more. I would rather see yon honor my relative and friend for the parts they have played in this change than for themselves alone.

I hope that you who are to be in attendnace would catch the meaning of the meeting and to have those hopes confirmed would have been a source of pleasure to me.

Evolution in Agriculture

No part of the South, and certainly no other part of the United States, better represented the Thomas Jefferson idea of a society based on Agriculture and the philosophy of life on which the Jeffersonian principle were based that did the State of Mississippi between 1840 and 1860. In the Natchez area, the social order so based began some twenty years earlier than 1840. By 1845, in Mississippi as a whole, and some twenty years earlier in the Natchez area, this social order had attained a prosperity on which a culture was developing. In 1861, all this was upset and since then has not been regained. This 1840-to-1861 period was that of flower of the Jefferson order. In so far as Mississippi was concerned, this order was based on an Agriculture which consisted in the growing of cotton and corn.

After 1861, something different was inevitable. Most thinking people saw it, but change was slow for various reasons. The old order was so beautiful and the Jeffersonian Philosophy was so excellent that many hoped against reason that it might be continued in spite of the change in labor and in world position. Some were in ruts and knew it but they saw no way to break out. They knew that their ruts suited them and furthermore, they knew that efficiency was greater in following ruts and that there was less of efficiency when one broke across them. They could not see where, in the confusion following war, they could succeed if they lessened efficiency by leaving ruts. Some recognized the need but they could not command the capital necessary for change. Some frankly lost courage and—some were bewildered. Gradually evolution in Agriculture was begun and slowly. And not always evenly nor even continuously has it been carried on. To start with, leadership was necessary.

At the end of Reconstruction, following the Civil War, he found himself an orphan, thrown into the midst of what seemed a hopeless society. The conflagaratoin from which his section had just emerged had left his family and himself with scant financial resources. His opportunity for education had been slight and he had no other training. A lesser man would have gone down, as good men were doing all around. Instead, he took up his load of responsibilities and plunged into life. This experience gave him training in judgment, self reliance, courage, and vision.

The period of stress had reduced the acreage of the family owned plantation until it was insufficient to support his sister, brothers, and himself. He took up buying, fattening, and selling of livestock as a supplement to planting. Thus he became interested in cows. An interest in cows led to an interest in good cows. Soon he was in the dairy business, and that led naturally to Jerseys. The next step was fine blooded registered Jerseys.

A quarter of a century after Col. Montgomery had laid down his work, one of the early students of the College, which had been Col. Montgomery's child, James Evans took up where the old prophet had ended.

James Evans saw that Mississippi Jerseys must have a reputation for being free from tick fever and tuberculosis. He influenced his people by example and by precept to dip against tick fever and to do tuberculin testing.

The keeping of cows makes necessary the growing of forage, hay and grain crops and the development of pastures. Either these crops changes precede, or go hand is hand with the acquisition of cows, or dairying is a failure.

James Evans lived in a plantation which came to his family from the Indians and which had always been used for the growing of cotton and corn. Good prairie land it was, but no land can maintain its original richness indefinitely, if kept producing solely cotton and corn. Those acres his grandfathers had selected and his parents had used as the basis of their fortuse. He had obligation to those acres of good prairie soil. Their soil fertility must be restored. His thoughts turned to the control of craw fish and other pests and to the rebuilding of the soil.

To continue the history further would be merely to add details.

He continued to the end of his life, working along these lines, fulfilling his responsibilities as a citizen by do-

ing as well as she could the job which lay on his door step and working at all times with judgment, because his work had always to pay its way. Thus lived James Evans—always a farmer, a cattle breeder, a Jersey man, a man of principles and character, a leader among those who knew him best and had known him longest.

Evolution Moves On.

The Agricultural College methods of 1880 did not differ greatly from the old methods. General Stephen D. Lee, Professor Gully, and Trustee Montgomery were wise enough to see that the evolution must be gradual. The new must evolve out of the old without jarring break and with "feet always on the ground." Gradually without break and with "feet always on the ground," it must progress in the future. There must be further evolution, there must be reforestration and new uses for trees, the climatic advantages must be takes advantage of in the growth of vegetables, fruits and flowers, more milk, butter and cheese must be produced, more beef cattle and more stock breeding, new uses of earth, the market fishing crop must be inrceased. A multitude of new problems will be met and must be solved.

In honoring these leaders in the past, you proclaim the importance to the state of progressive methods of Agriculture. You also promise rewards to those future leaders who carry on in the evolution of Agriculture—those who find solution for the problems yet to arise.

W. A. EVANS, M. D.